



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Underground fuel release at Midway Atoll:

03/14/2003 Update

- As of March 13, approximately 33,500 gallons of JP-5 fuel have been recovered. With existing equipment, we are averaging about 650 gallons of fuel recovered per day.
- The underground plume of released fuel appears to be localized and is not spreading. Its outer edge is approximately 800 feet from the lagoon at its closest point. The plume itself measures about 150 feet by 270 feet. Three monitoring wells have been installed just outside the JP-5 plume to detect any movement of the fuel. Underground piping systems are being monitored to ensure no fuel is moving into these pipes.
- A new lined soil remediation site has been established. Excavated soil will be spread at this site and regularly raked to aid the evaporation of the fuel.



- Much of the recovered fuel should be reusable in Midway's boilers and generator. Two carbon treatment units used by the U.S. Navy during earlier remediation activities have been reconfigured to separate oil and water, and the fuel will be filtered.

Assuming it meets acceptable standards for the boilers and generator, the fuel will be used on island rather than being shipped back to Honolulu. No recovered fuel would be used for other purposes such as aircraft refueling.

- A U.S. Coast Guard flight on February 20 brought much needed food and supplies to Midway. The continuing support of our Coast Guard partners is extremely helpful to the Refuge and much appreciated.



- A barge bringing six new pieces of heavy equipment and supplies left Honolulu on March 7 and arrived at Midway on March 16. This equipment will allow FWS to excavate additional wells and to fully implement the fuel remediation program.



- Once all the recoverable JP-5 fuel has been removed, the operation will move into a clean-up phase. GeoEngineers Inc. has developed a draft clean-up plan, which is now under review by FWS. Environmental contaminant personnel from the FWS' Pacific Region have been coordinating with the Environmental Protection Agency on clean-up standards, and EPA will also be reviewing the draft clean-up plan.



- And for those of you wondering how Midway looks these days, here are a few images just to be enjoyed!

